(iii) Except the proposed liaison work, the office in India will not undertake any other activity of a trading commercial or industrial nature nor shall it enter into any business contracts in its own name without prior permission of RBI.

(iv) No commission/fees will be charged or any other remuneration received/income earned by the office in India for the liaison activities/ services rendered by it or otherwise in India.

(v) The entire expenses of the office in India will be met exclusively out of the funds received from abroad through normal banking channels.

(vi) The office in India shall not acquire, hold, (oterwise than by way of lease for a period not exceeding five years) transfer or dispose of any immovable property in India without obtaining prior permission of the RBI under Section 31 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

(vii) They will furnish an annual report of the work done by the office in India, stating therein the details of actual export or import, if any, effected during period in respect of which the office had rendered liaison services.

(viii) The Liaison office will not render any consultancy or any other services directly/ indirectly with or without any consideration.

Balance of Payment with Thailand

4381. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Thailand is the fifteenth largest market for Indian items.

(b) if so, the value of export and import made by the two countries during the previous years;

(c) whether there is a gap in regard to export and import made between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to reduce the gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. As per the statistics available with the DGCI&S Thailand ranked 16th amongst the countries importing goods from India during 1995-96.

(b) The details of bilateral trade between the two countries during 1995-96 are as under :

(Value in Million US $)

Export	Import	Total Trade	Balance of Trade
474.31	168.29	642.60	(-) 306.02

(c) and (d). Since India is having favourable balance of trade with Thailand, no specific steps are contemplated to reduce the trade gap. However, various measures have been taken to boost the bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meetings of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries, exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in fre flow of trade.

[Translation]

Textile Designing Exhibition

4382. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Textile Designing Exhibition has been organised in Maharashtra during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the orders received through such exhibitions;

(d) whether the Government propose to hold more such exhibitions in the State in future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (e). In January 1995 and February 1996, two textiles fairs named "TEX-STYLES INDIA", had been organised in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

There were 324 and 350 participants in "TEX-STYLES INDIA" 1995 and 1996, respectively. Order worth Rs. 39.1 crores and Rs. 210 crores respectively had reportedly been booked during these fairs.

At present, there is no proposal to hold a textile fair in Maharashtra.

[English]

Duty Evasion by Multinational Companies

4383. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cases of duty evasion by some of the multinational companies have been noticed by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two year alongwith the amount involved therein and the details of such multinational companies;

(c) whether the Government have ordered probe into the affairs of some multinational companies for alleged evasion of customs durty and violation of the provisions of customs duty;